

U.S. Department of Energy Sustainability Performance Office DOE Sustainability SPOTlight

Issue 8 April 2012

SUCCESS STORIES

NREL Recycles 2,652 Pounds of Old Film

Before moving to the new wing of the new LEED Platinum Research Support Facility, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) Publications Services needed a solution for disposing of old film that accumulated over a 30 year period. The materials were found to be 100% recyclable. The silver used in the film is recoverable, making the film valuable to recyclers. In two pickups, NREL recycled 2,652 pounds of film at an average of 53 cents per pound—netting a total of \$1,472.85 for reinvestment into NREL's recycling and property management program.



Image: Nelson Refining Systems

Nelson Refining Systems, a recycler based out of Utah, buys old film, negatives, and x-rays from the western states. Nelson separates the silver from the plastic film by washing it with an environmentally-safe proteolytic enzyme solvent. The remaining plastic is bundled into bales, sold, and reprocessed into plastic pellets.

For more information on this effort, contact Ellen Fortier at 303-275-3634.

PERFORMANCE AWARDS

2012 Federal 100 Awards

The Federal 100 Awards recognize government and industry leaders who have played pivotal roles in the federal government IT community and "have made a difference in the way technology has transformed their agency or accelerated their agency's mission." DOE's 2012 Federal 100 award winners included:

Jeanne Beard for developing innovative IT programs designed to reduce the risks associated with hazardous waste cleanup at nuclear weapons sites.

Eugene Higgins for leading the modernization of IT and telecommunications services at DOE's Hanford Site in Washington.

Robert Osborn for his vision on the NNSA Network Vision (2NV), bringing direction to cloud, wireless, and mobility strategy within NNSA.

Plan Ahead...

- Join DOE's Sustainability Performance Office on **August 23** for an interactive training session after GovEnergy
- GreenGov Symposium scheduled for **September 24-26**
- DOE Sustainability Awards on **September 27**

SUSTAINABILITY SUPERSTARS



Cutting the ribbon at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) for the Long Island Solar Farm on Nov. 18, 2011 are Doon Gibbs of BNL and Michael Holland of

DOE Brookhaven Site Office along with local and commercial partners.

Send us your champion!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MILESTONES

Apr. 5: Selecting and Evaluating New and Underused Technologies (FEMP)

Apr. 6: Earth Day 2012 Photography Contest

Apr. 11: Conference on Toxics Release Inventory

Apr. 10-12: Inspector Training

Apr. 12: Training on Portfolio Manager

Apr. 13: Composite Sustainability Plans Due

Apr. 16-22: Earth Week

Apr. 30: Water Quality Conference

May 1-3: ESPC Comprehensive Workshop

May 3: FEMP Training on Energy Security

May 15-17: Environmental Laws and Regulations Course

July 12: FEMP Training on Implementing Deep Retrofits

DID YOU KNOW? Spring cleaning in your home can save energy. Removing dirt from door seals can limit the formation of small gaps for air to escape. Cleaning dust behind your refrigerators and dusting light bulbs will also improve operating efficiencies. For more information, visit www.eereblogs.energy.gov/energysavers/.



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